Coward and others insisted, had recovered her greatness; but some manifestation of this recovery other than a balanced budget, was called for. There was the Government, there the Prime Minister who had dared greatly and won through, and there the country for whose sake he and his colleagues had sunk their differences and taken upon themselves the burden of office. It was an inspiring spectacle, like the moment in a play when, to the audience's applause, hero and heroine fall into each other's arms, but not one which could be indefinitely protracted. Either a curtain or further action was required.

The Cabinet deliberated. Should they go to the country, or continue in office with the comfortable parliamentary majority they enjoyed ? If they went to the country, what proposals were they to put before the electorate ? If they remained in office, how were they to employ their own and Parliament's time? Their deliberations were long and mysterious, and aroused some irritation even among their supporters. It almost seemed as though they were going to prove as ineffectual as their prede-cessors.

If Cabinet Ministers had foreseen the sweeping electoral success which was in store for them, and the simplicity of the device which would ensure it, their hearts would have been easier. But they did not know. Doubts still gnawed at them. Might not the unemployed, despite postal-orders dispatched in gratitude to the Prime Minister, be expected to vote solidly against a Government which had reduced unemployment pay? Teachers were complaining, judges felt they had been wronged, seamen had mutinied and civil servants grumbled. Authoritative

statements which had been made about the consequences which would follow the abandonment of the Gold Standard, would provide hecklers with useful ammunition; and how was it possible for Sir Herbert Samuel and Mr. Neville Chamberlain to persuade themselves and others that they were in agreement on fiscal policy ? The Cabinet were unanimous on nothing except that they had saved the country and must go on saving it. Such a position had serious electoral disadvan-